

Semper Fi : INL Celebrates Birthday of Marine Corps

Last week, the U.S. Marine Corps Systems Command and contractors from Idaho National Laboratory took the opportunity to honor the many men and women who have tirelessly sacrificed for our freedom. The birthday celebration was open to all active duty, reserve and retired Marines, as well as military veterans from across the laboratory.



Seven U.S. Marines from Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 28 stand at parade rest following a ceremonial cake-cutting last week.

Each November, thousands of active-duty and retired U.S. Marines gather to celebrate the birthday of the Marine Corps. The formal celebration has roots dating back to 1921, when Marine Commandant Gen. John A. Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order Number 47, Series 1921.

Lejeune's order summarized the history, mission and tradition of the Corps, and further directed that the Order be read to all Marines on Nov. 10 of each year to honor the founding of the Marine Corps. The date was chosen because on that day, the Second Continental Congress resolved in 1775 to raise two battalions of Continental Marines. This year is the 231st birthday of the Corp.

This year, INL employees were joined by seven active-duty Marines from Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 28 based in Cherry Point, N.C. The Marines from Squadron 28 are spending the month in Idaho Falls while they complete training on an INL technology. Following their training, they are scheduled for a seven- to 13-month deployment.

"Marines are known and respected for their tradition, and they learn about the Corps birthday from the day they enter boot camp," said Marine program manager Debbie Webb. "We wanted this celebration to be as close as possible to the Marine Ball that they missed back home."

The celebration included traditional formalities such as the reading of the Marine doctrine, playing of the Marine hymn, and a ceremonial cake-cutting performed using a traditional Marine NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) sword. Those in attendance also watched a recorded video message from the current Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee.

During the celebration, Lynn Goldman, INL deputy director for National and Homeland Security, spoke to those in attendance and remarked about the courage and honor which is required of all Marines and soldiers.

"About 35 years ago, I was drafted into Vietnam," said Goldman. "And although I enlisted as a sailor, I stand before you today with deep admiration and great respect for your courage and commitment to defending our country."

According to the Department of Defense, the Marine motto, Semper Fidelis, was adopted around 1883. Taken from Latin, it means "Always Faithful." According to tradition, the Marine motto is a way of life distinguished by commitment to country, to the Corps, and to each other. This is why there are no ex-Marines, only former Marines.

About 50 people attended last week's celebration, which was the first time INL celebrated the Marine Corps birthday. Similar celebrations were held nationwide.

Message from the current Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee. [Watch the video.](#) (14.2MB .wmv)

General Contact:

Ethan Huffman, (208) 526-0660,

[Feature Archive](#)



Seven U.S. Marines from Cherry Point, NC stand with two managers from INL's National and Homeland Security Directorate. Pictures (L to R) are INL Defense Systems Director Ken Watts, Sgt. Hector Roman, Sgt. Matthew Mulherin, Cpl. Brian Canfield, GySgt. Thomas Olmeda, Cpl. Agenor Rodríguez, LCpl. Robert Thames, SSgt. Brandon Baxley, and INL National and Homeland Security Deputy Director Lynn Goldman.